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Helping Out

Wilberforce tax clinic in need of volunteers to run annual program. See page 2.

Firefighters Help

Highlands East firefighters hold fundraising breakfast for Highland Grove family. See page 3.

New Club in Town

Info night planned for Haliburton's new Rotaract Club. See page 3.

Walking Wednesdays

Get out and about with the Walking Wednesdays group, which takes short walks in Haliburton from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Meet up with the group at the tourist caboose, located in the Head Lake Park parking lot. Routes vary week-to-week. Participants are welcome to walk as much as they want. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions, and wear comfortable footwear for walking on mixed terrain. The walking group is cancelled if the buses are cancelled. /Submitted by Marla Force

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Young Professional of the year
Highlander of the Year

1st Novice: "Staircase to infinity" by Jaan Luubert

Reflections category winners

Above, 1st Advanced: "At The Lake" by Tammy Nash

Left, 1st Intermediate: "Calm" by Brian Mould

The Haliburton Highlands Camera Club meets the third Wednesday of every month, alternating between Minden and Haliburton. There is no charge for attendance and everyone is welcome. Whether you are a professional with high-end gear or just starting out with a point and shoot camera or smartphone, there are opportunities for everyone to learn how to improve their images. See the website at highlandscameraclub.ca for time and location of their next meeting. You can also view all of the competition images online.

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Volunteers needed in Wilberforce to help at income tax clinic

Heat Bank Haliburton County and Central Food Network have adopted the Volunteer Income Tax Clinics in Wilberforce this year in partnership with the Wilberforce Legion and the Canada Revenue Agency.

When Marlene Watson informed the agency that she would only be running the Haliburton tax clinics this year, Central Food Network knew they needed to step in to keep the service in Wilberforce.

"We have been in awe of the efforts and dedication of Marlene Watson who has been running these clinics for many years – single-handedly so for the last several years," Tina Jackson, co-ordinator for Heat Bank Haliburton County says. "We know the incredible impact that Marlene and these clinics have had on our community and we hope to be able to carry on that fantastic work in Wilberforce."

In order to do that, the organization is looking for several volunteers to help at the income tax clinics. Volunteers do not need to have any experience with tax preparation as training will be provided through CRA, but basic computer skills would be helpful. Clinics will run on Wednesday afternoons during tax season at the Wilberforce Legion, likely starting later in February.

"It may seem like a simple thing, but helping someone complete their income tax return can unlock critical benefits such as the Canada Child Benefit ('Baby Bonus'), GST/HST refunds, the Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income seniors, and more. Every dollar is critical these days as we continue to see the cost of basic needs rise faster than incomes," says Carol Greenwood, board chair for Central Food Network. "Helping people increase the amount of money coming in can help reduce the need for households to access our other programs while improving dignity."

To find out more about becoming a volunteer, visit www.canada.ca/taxes-volunteer, call CRA at 1-800-959-8281 or call Tina Jackson at 705-306-0565.

Submitted

ATTENTION: NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY SERVICES

We are currently working on a new publication called County Life Magazine that will be distributed beginning in April 2020. This magazine will be celebrating the successes in the Haliburton Highlands and much more.

This magazine will also include a **Non-Profit Community Service Directory.** There will be no charge to have your non-profit service included in this directory. If you would like your service included in this listing, please email Pat Lewis at ***classifieds@haliburtonpress.com***

A firefighter's breakfast for a local family

KRISTENA SCHUTT-MOORE
Special to *County Life*

The firefighters of Station 2 in Highlands East served up a mighty breakfast fundraiser for Normandeau-Hennessey family, Braedon, Justice, Ray, Ryan and Bobbiejoe. / KRISTENA SCHUTT-MOORE Special to County Life

The firefighters from Highlands East's Station 2 took over the Highlands Grove Community Centre on Saturday, Jan. 18, but they weren't there for training or to fight a fire.

The volunteer firefighters and their families were cooking up breakfasts in the hall's kitchen, raising more than $2,000 for the Normandeau-Hennessey family who lost their house to an electrical fire on Dec. 9 on Cooney Road in Highland Grove.

After the fire Station 2 volunteers met for their regular Friday night meeting, they decided to pitch in together and help out the family. A GoFundMe webpage, www.gofundme.com/f/hys9ad-please-help-house-fire-victims, was already set up and the volunteers pooled some of their fundraising money, some even donated their pay slips from the night of the fire, and came up with $500 for the page. They then thought they could do one better.

Other fire stations throughout Highlands East and the volunteers' families pitched in and together they put on a large breakfast on Jan. 18 including bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, pancakes with local maple syrup, toast and coffee, tea and juice.

The Normandeau-Hennessey family, Ryan, Bobbiejoe, Braedon and Justice, were also at the breakfast and they expressed their thanks to everyone who came and helped out. "It's amazing how the whole community comes together when a catastrophe like this happens," says Ryan. "You just never think it will happen to you."

The family says that they aren't even close to ready to rebuild the house yet. Currently they are living with Ryan's parents, except for Braedon, who is living with his father. Their pets are also scattered throughout the area living with friends and family for now.

Justice explained, "It's difficult. I now have to go to Centre Hastings Secondary School because of where we are living so I have to leave all my friends." Braedon was able to remain in North Hastings High School because he was living with his dad within the school's catchment area.

Both the family and the firefighters want to thank the volunteers and community businesses that helped support the breakfast and made it possible, including Wilberforce Foodland, No Frills Bancroft, Zehr's Bancroft, Tim Hortons Bancroft, Soloways Hotdog Factory and Sucie Sugar Bush.

Thanks to the community support, the GoFundMe page had reached $1,800 of the $7,000 goal at the time of printing. Those interested in contacting the Normandeau-Hennessey family are welcome to reach Bobbiejoe on her Facebook page or email them at Bobbiejoenormandeauhennessey@hotmail.com.

Rotaract Club launches in Haliburton

A new organization for young adults in Haliburton is holding an information night in February. The Rotaract Club of Haliburton County was formed through a partnership between the Rotary Club of Haliburton and the Young Professionals Network of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

The new club will bring more service and international opportunities through Rotaract's network of 20,000 clubs in 159 countries, information provided by the new club says.

"The opportunities for the members of the YPN will be greatly enhanced under the Rotaract umbrella," said chamber president Andrea Strano. "The original concept of starting a YPN was to allow for networking and professional development opportunities for young professionals in our community and the international scope of Rotaract furthers that objective exponentially."

The Haliburton Rotary Club is prepared to offer mentorship and guidance to Rotaract's members, said president Brian Nash. "The opportunities available to members of Rotaract Clubs are many and we are anxious to introduce those opportunities in our community."

Rotaract is for young adults between 18 and 30 years old, offering the opportunity "to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service."

The information night is to take place at Fleming College's Haliburton campus on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

-Staff

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Event Location
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Minden, Ontario

Devon MacPherson leaves from the start line in the four-dog race held Jan. 18 as part of the Haliburton HIghlands Dogsled Derby at the Pinestone over the weekend of Jan. 18 to 19. More than 80 competitors took part in the event, including new teams, from as far away as New York, Michigan and Timmins despite a winter storm and not a lot of snow to train on this season./SUE TIFFIN Staff

Post-race, participants in the skijoring race at the Haliburton Highlands Dogsled Derby pose for team photos.

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For peat's sake: preserving wetlands in the Haliburton Highlands

JENN WATT

County Life Editor

Mapping wetlands is one of the first steps to providing them legal protection, prohibiting development that could hinder their ability to filter water, mitigate flooding, safeguard wildlife, and sequester carbon.

On the heels of a recent mapping project in Minden Hills on behalf of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, biologist Paul Heaven spoke at an Environment Haliburton/HHLT event in Haliburton Jan. 14 about the different types of wetlands that exist, why they're important and what threatens their existence.

With the assistance of a federal government grant, the land trust evaluated the Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex, accounting for 840 hectares (about 2,076 acres) from the Barry Wetland to Snowdon Park to Gelert. Heaven said the land is provincially significant; when the paperwork is complete, that designation will afford the property protections against development.

Evaluation projects are crucial to preserving wetlands, Heaven said.

"By getting a good mapping base and fully understanding where our wetlands are, how much wetland we actually have, might avoid conflicts where one consultant is saying 'there's no wetland there,' one is saying 'it is there,' the planner's in the middle going, 'where do I go from here?'" Heaven said.

Kendrick Creek was a test project and the land trust hopes that more mapping will follow.

He specified that the wetland mapping is different from the LiDAR mapping that is underway. Wetlands don't all look the same. Depending on how much the water stagnates, they can be quite fluid, as in the case of marshes, or relatively solid, as you might find in a bog.

Attendees of biologist Paul Heaven's talk on wetlands participate in an interactive demonstration on how wetlands help reduce flooding. The funnels represent the lakes, each flowing into the next, until they get to the bottom, which represented the amount of water rushing into downtown Minden. Sponges represented wetlands and participants were asked to place them in the funnels to reduce the flow of water. /JENN WATT Staff

"When you're looking at a black spruce swamp on a treed landscape, the level's the same, it's not necessarily a dip or anything, it's a flat surface," he said.

Heaven explained to the group that there are four types of wetlands: marshes, fens, bogs and swamps.

Peat, created in bogs and fens from dead plant material, looks a lot like soil, but is actually nutrient-rich and has a long history with humans. When burned, it can create a heat source and people have used it for cooking and home heating. It's also good for agriculture, adding nutrients to the soil.

Heaven said it takes about 1,000 years for one metre of peat to accumulate and when he's doing his work on wetlands, he'll often sink his auger 10 metres into the peat.

"Some of the stuff I'm pulling up is actually 10,000 years old," he said.

"If you're looking at that peat and you see a leaf or a seed in that, that leaf or seed could be 10,000 years old."

Peat also has a gloomier history in Europe, where it seems it was a favoured resting place for corpses – particularly of people who were murdered. Heaven said many well-preserved bodies have been found in bogs overseas.

The Lindow Man, for example, was discovered in 1984 in a bog in northwest England. Reporting suggests he was a man in his 20s, with evidence of strangulation and trauma to the head and cuts on the throat. It's estimated he died between 2 BC and 119 AD.

"They're not rotting; they're thousands of years old, but they're not rotting at all," Heaven said of the bodies found. (Many animals have also been discovered in bogs, perhaps stepping in the wrong spot and sinking in.)

Heaven said there are guidelines to keeping wetlands healthy, including keeping a vegetation buffer and a sizeable setback between the wetland and any residence, using floating docks or pier-supported docks, and refraining from activities that would alter the drainage.

He said he worried about the activity of some off-road vehicles, which are being built with waterproof features, encouraging riders to take them through swamps and marshes.

"Taking an ATV through a wetland not only destroys the habitat, it completely changes the hydrology of that wetland," he said.

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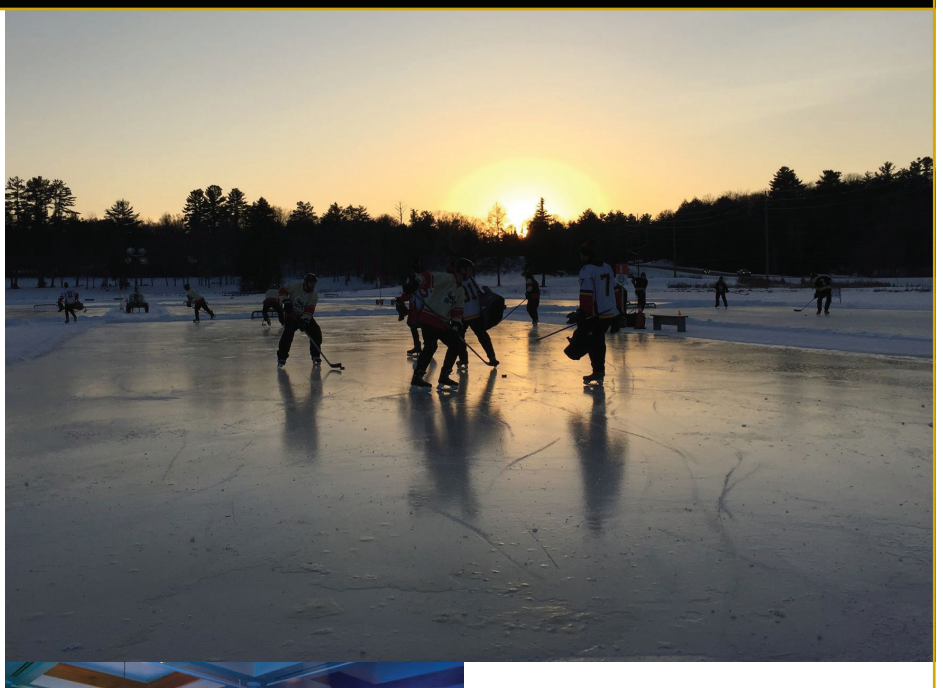

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Send your letters to the editor to jenn@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Life on the inside

WHEN FERN first moved to the house, she didn't know what to expect. Her former home had not been comfortable, to say the least. In fact it had been downright dangerous. Cold, dark and very dry, she had found herself sometimes fighting to survive. It had not been pleasant.

So when she was placed in her new surroundings, the first thing she did was to look around the room, to take it all in. There was a large window and while the room wasn't overly warm it was comfortable. Fern soon met Ivy, a rambling creature who appeared to be in love with the world. At least that was the impression Fern got from Ivy's way of reaching out in so many directions, trying to grab onto whatever was within her grasp.

SHARON LYNCH
Down Our Road

This was not Fern's way. She preferred to be left alone. Her greatest pleasure was to snooze through the winter months and with as little fuss as possible. Ivy was too much of a show-off and Fern was glad there was distance between them.

Violet on the other hand, was both inspiring and interesting. The oldest of the three of them, Violet had stories to tell, many, many stories about the owner of the house. Violet had lived there for well over 20 years. She had seen other companions come and go, some staying briefly before moving on and others, sadly, succumbing to disease, neglect or ignorance. But despite Violet's small and delicate appearance, Fern immediately recognized her tenacity and wisdom.

When you've lived with someone for a long time, you learn to stay noticed without being in the way. One of Violet's favourite tales was about the time the owner became very ill and had to stay in bed for several weeks. Violet was forgotten and this oversight began to worry her. She told Fern she became desperate but was unsure what to do.

Then one day the owner's neighbour dropped by with some homemade chicken soup. The soup was placed on the hall table while the neighbour removed her winter boots. At the time the hall table was Violet's spot and so when the neighbour turned to pick up the soup container, Violet made her move.

She drooped her head and withered herself in a forlorn attitude that could not be ignored. With a gasp at what she saw, the neighbour immediately gave her a drink and spoke to her with soothing words. Fortunately as well was the fact this person knew the correct way to administer the liquid. Otherwise there could have been two sick individuals in the house rather than just one.

The chicken soup must have done the trick because not long afterwards, things returned to normal and Violet breathed a sigh of relief. She could watch the comings and goings of children, pets and even a husband or two from her spot on the hall table. At one point she was moved to the kitchen windowsill but she made such a fuss that it didn't last long. If Violet didn't like something, she made it known.

Ivy was no fan of Violet. She would often say that just because Violet had been there the longest, she was really ordinary while Ivy herself was a robust creature of growth and personality. Who else can scale a wall or bend into shapes strange and wonderful and be none the worse for it, she liked to point out. Violet just rolled her eyes at this boasting. She knew that if Ivy wasn't careful she could be cut down to size and there would be nothing she could do about it.

Fern preferred to stay out of their bickering. While she liked Violet, her focus was on getting through the winter months without incident. Violet had told her that once spring came, she could expect to be moved out onto the front porch. From there she would be able to watch the world go by all the while basking in the admiration of passersby. For she was a beautiful Fern and now that she had found the right home, she could easily live there as long as Violet. Maybe even longer.

Top 10 reasons to walk

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

AS WE ALL know, walking is one of those activities that is highly under-rated. I suppose this is because it's not the most exciting thing to do. I could go on about its many health benefits, but the truth is we all have our own personal reasons to walk. Here are my top 10.

1. Try as I might, I can't rollerblade on shag carpet.
2. I'm way too fat to fly.
3. Have you ever tried sprinting in a China shop?
4. Some of us have a lot of time on our hands.
5. Crawling is hard on my chest hair.
6. Because of one little misunderstanding, when the driver in your car pool said, "It's your turn to get the gas."
7. No licence and registration required.
8. It's the most socially accepted way to achieve heavy breathing in public.
9. Try finding loose change while driving.
10. No one ever suspects the walking guy.

January finally delivered the winter we were waiting for. /JENN WATT Staff

Get The Word Out
Let people know about your event.
Send it in to our FREE community events listing in the Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and County Life.
Email the basics to Pat Lewis: classifieds@haliburtonpress.com or call us at 705-457-1037.

Skyline Bonspiel winners

The 61st annual Men's Skyline Bonspiel featured 24 teams (22 were from out of town) and was held from Jan. 17 to 19 at the Haliburton Curling Club. The Haliburton Timbermart A winning team was from the Oshawa Curling Club, who were skipped by John Bolton, vice, Derek Ferlatte, second, Nick Moffatt and lead, Chris Lovell. (Convenor Kent Milford, far left, and convenor Dave Moss is on the far right). The event was made possible by the efforts of Haliburton Curling Club's committee members Dave Moss, Kent Milford, David Ogilvie, Andy Glecoff and Steve Colliver. /Submitted by Mary Hillaby

The B event Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC winners came from the Peterborough Curling Club, skipped by Mike Ounpuu, vice, Andy Staszak, second, Dale Sokolowski, and lead, Kevin Smith. (Convenor Kent Milford, far left, and convenor Dave Moss is on the far right.)

The C Event Walkers Home Hardware winners were from the Brampton Curling Club, skipped by Murray Thomas, vice, Marc Winters, second, John Westland and a substitute lead from the Haliburton Club, Garth Krieger. (Convenor Kent Milford, far left, and convenor Dave Moss is on the far right.)

Winners of the Hudson Henderson Insurance D Event was the Colliver family rink, from all over Ontario to play. The team's skip, Steve Colliver lives in Haliburton and his brother Brent is from the Sudbury Curling Club. Their two sons play the front end as second, Chris Colliver, and lead, Jesse Colliver. (Convenor Kent Milford, far left, and convenor Dave Moss is on the far right.)

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Where: Minden Legion
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Horticultural Society Potluck Luncheon
When: Saturday, Feb. 1, 11:30 a.m. social, lunch at noon
Where: Our Lady of Fatima Church, 7 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden
Guest speaker: Jon Faulknor, Seed Starting and Succession Planting. Please bring your own plate, cutlery, cup and serving spoon. Hosted by the Minden and District Horticultural Society: mindenhorticulturalsociety.ca or minden@gardenontario.org.

Minden Pride Bowling
When: Saturday, Feb. 1 from 7 to 10 p.m.
Where: Fast Lane Bowling, 12281 Hwy 35, Minden
Join us for a night of bowling. Only $5.
Contact: 705-286-3900 or fastlanebowling@outlook.com

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association monthly meeting
When: Monday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.
Where: HCSA Clubhouse, 171 Mallard Road in Haliburton's Industrial Park.
It's a busy time for the HCSA with a number of projects on and off trail projects on the go. For further info email info@hcsa.ca or call 705-457-4263. Everyone is Welcome

100 Women Who Care Winter Meeting
When:Tuesday, Feb. 4
Where: The Dominion Hotel, Dining Room, Minden
Time: Social and Registration 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.
We are 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County. We meet three times a year for one hour to raise money for local charities. Since we began we have raised over $50,000. Why not come and see how we do it - it's awesome and it's fun!

Kinmount and District Educational Bursary, Annual Fundraiser Dinner/Auction
When: Saturday, Feb. 8, Doors Open at 5 p.m. Dinner is at 6 p.m.
Where: Galway Hall
To reserve tickets, phone 705 488-3053
Tickets: $20 each

Country Music Jamboree
When: Feb. 9 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., open mic
Where: Coboconk Legion
Hosted by the Country Hot Flashes with Scott Russell and Ron Lister. Food made available by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary at a reasonable cost. Admission: $8.

Highlands Male Chorus: Winter Interlude
When: Sunday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church
General admission: adults - $15, children under 16 - $5, family - $35
Tickets available at Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton and Pharmasave in Minden

Sexual Health Clinic
When: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

Haliburton & District Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge
An event at the Haliburton Frost Festival
When: Saturday, Feb. 15
Registration at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Event starts at 1 p.m.
Pledge forms available at Cranberry Cottage, Haliburton Foodland, West Guilford Shopping Centre, Todd's Independent or online at haliburtonlions.com.
Prizes awarded to the top individual pledge dollars and top team pledge dollars and also the best costumes. All proceeds to the SickKids' Garron Family Cancer Centre or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, Bird Box Building
When: Saturday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Fish Hatchery
Join Norm Rondeau to construct bird boxes suitable for field birds such as bluebirds,
chickadees, swallows and wrens. Kits will be provided. Admission by donation. You can register at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or by phone at 705-457-3700

Haliburton Writers and Editors Network
When: Feb. 20, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Minden Library, Rotary room 136 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
HHWEN/Haliburton Writer's and Editor's Network - Monthly meeting third Thursday of every month. No charge. See coming events at www.haliburtonwriters.ca. Call K. at 705-286-6635

Food Handler Course
When: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Health Unit office (191 Highland St., Unit 310) in Haliburton.
This course teaches participants how to handle and prepare food safely. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate (valid for a period of five years) indicating they are registered as a certified food handler. Pre-registration is required. Cost $40/person. To register, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5006.

National Cupcake Day
When: Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Animal Hospital
Minden Animal Hospital is once again baking scrumptious cupcakes to benefit Muskoka OSPCA Bracebridge. Preorders are welcome until Feb 21. Don't have a sweet tooth? Donations can be made by visiting NationalCupcakeDay.ca, clicking "donate," and searching: "MAH Fur Pets."

Sexual Health Clinic
When: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.
Where: Fireside Lounge Hyland Crest Senior Residence, Minden, 6 McPherson St.
What: We are a group of stroke survivors and caregivers sharing personal experiences, exchanging information, learning healthy lifestyles, and offering mutual support.
Facilities are wheelchair accessible. Please join us. You are not alone.
Contact: Lois Rigney 705-286-1765 for more info.

Cooking Classes
When: Fridays 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton (49 Maple Ave Unit 4) and Minden (55 Parkside Street)
Classes are free! Sponsored by Government of Ontario, Township of Minden Hills and Municipality of Dysart et al and SIRCH
For more information on Haliburton dates please contact Andrea at amueller@dysartetal.ca and for Minden dates please contact Elisha at eweiss@mindenhills.ca

Snowshoe Hikes
When: Mondays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Snowdon Park, Barnum Creek, White Water Preserve, Glebe Park
No cost! Sponsored by Government of Ontario, Township of Minden Hills and Municipality of Dysart et al and SIRCH
For more information please contact Elisha at eweiss@mindenhills.ca

Line Dancing
When: Thursday mornings, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: Stanhope Firefighters Community Hall
What: Enjoy exercising body and soul with weekly Line Dancing. Great Physical activity for all levels of dancers. Beginners welcome.
Contact: Jacqui at Clancelinedance@gmail.com

Devotional Gatherings
When: Mondays/Tuesdays.
Come join us for prayers, meditations and readings; all spiritual traditions are honoured and welcome-an open space for reflection, prayer and sharing for the well-being of people and the state of the world. "Religion should unite all hearts and cause wars and disputes to vanish from the earth..."(www.bahai.org) Call Kathie/ George at 705-286-3378.

SMART, safe and gentle exercise for Seniors.
Offered by VON for strength, balance and flexibility.
Haliburton: Parklane Apt. Tuesday, 1 to 2 p.m.
Echo Hills Apt. Thursday, 1 to 2 p.m.
Minden: Hyland Crest Auditorium - Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Classes are free
For more information, contact Cathy Thomas, 705-489-2187 or Carol Browne, 705-457-4551

Recurring Events

Free Public Skating
Where: Behind the West Guilford Community Centre
Hockey nets available. Great lighting for skating at night. Everyone welcome.

Haliburton Highlands Stroke Support Group
When: Third Thursday of each month 10 a.m. to noon

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free!
Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com.

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Legion Events

Branch 636 Minden

Monday – Thursday Breakfast 9 to 11 a.m.
Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tuesday Liver Lovers Special plus regular menu
Friday 12 to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 7 p.m., Fish & Chips, or Wings & Fries (Onion Rings.)
Saturday All day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a lunch special from 12 noon.
Weekly events:
Monday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Haliburton Highlands Rug Hookers. (every two weeks)
Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Senior art group.
1 to 4 p.m., Bid Euchre,
Wednesday 12 p.m. - Four Meat Draws, butcher quality meats for $1 a ticket.
1 to 4 p.m. - Ladies Darts,
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Calorie Counters
Thursday 7 p.m. Darts in the Sports Room.
7 p.m. Euchre in the Club Room
Friday Every second week, Karaoke with Fred and Linda, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Saturday 1 p.m. - Four special draws
Sunday 12 to 4:30 p.m. Sports Day

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Friday Ham & Scalloped dinner 5 to 7 p.m.
Saturday Meat draw 2 p.m. Early bird 3 p.m. Sharp! If you come out offer to help sell tickets please!
Monday Card Night 7 p.m. Beginner's welcome.
Tuesday Executive Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Fun Darts 7:30 p.m.
Upcoming Events
Feb 15 -*Valentine Dance $5 cover DJ Isla*
Feb 15 - Ken McFarlane Memorial Lake Trout Derby
Having a event ? Book our hall and have L.A. cater for you. They do a great job! Want to get involved? Please call or drop by the legion
705-448-2221 now if you can help.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Dave Allen, PRO 705-457-2571
Mondays: Bridge every Monday at
1 p.m.
Tuesday Night Dart League starting at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start
Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. - $1,000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at
7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Cribbage 1 p.m. start
Meat Draw Five Draws, Five Prizes each draw, First draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Chester Howse, MC Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards

Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw,
Tickets are $1 each from noon onwards
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129. Everyone is welcome!

GET IT online
www.mindentimes.ca

Did Santa Forget?

If you did not find a Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass in your stocking this Christmas, there is still time to take advantage of our Christmas Season Pass Sale.
You won't want to miss this season's great line-up including The Sound of Music, The Importance of Being Ernest, Lucien, Every Brilliant Thing and Across the Pond.
All five shows for only **$160**... that is almost a 15% savings.

do something dramatic this summer

Highlands summer festival 2020 Live Theatre

But Hurry!

Sale ends January 31. After then, all tickets will only be available at regular price, $37.50.
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www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca and follow the links to the secure order page.

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Near-perfect conditions

Mushers draw thousands to Minden Derby

It was a perfect weekend for racing according to the Race Governor of the Minden Sled Dog Derby Val Lougheed. She was commenting following the close of the fourteenth annual Minden Techni-Cal Challenge Sunday afternoon, February 1.

"The weather was ideal, the trail conditions were next to perfect, the spectators came out in droves and the best mushers in north America came to Minden. I couldn't have asked for anything more," Lougheed said.

Her comments were repeated by mushers and many of the thousands of visitors who converged on Minden. "This has always been my favourite race," a veteran musher said. "The trail is a tough one, but the welcome and organization is second to none." Many of the spectators repeated those sentiments.

The top spot in the eight dog competition went to Pierre Thibadeau of St. Georges, Quebec. He managed to shave one minute and twenty seconds off his Saturday time of 29:35.20 to claim the first place prize with an overall run of 57:44.47. The eight dog teams run eight miles each day with the two day total determining the winner. In second spot was Arleigh Reynolds of Spencer, New York who covered the 16 mile distance in 58:36.61. Third place went to John Samburg of Paul Smiths, New York at 59:04.94. Minden racer, and a member of the organizing committee, Steve Lougheed, placed ninth with a time of 1:00:50.76.

World champion musher Lou Serre of Markstay, Ontario led the four dog class with a combined two day total of 30:32.17. The four dog teams run four miles in each of the two heats. Gary Callahan of Madison, Ohio was over a minute behind Serre at 31:41.80 to place second. Third spot went to Pat Hnatiuk of Massey Ontario with a time of 31:58.52. Minden musher Jesse Lougheed placed fifteenth at 36:50.48 with his brother Caleb in twentieth spot at 38:16.38.

The event, which is sponsored by Martin Pet Foods of Elmira, makers of Techni-Cal Dog Food, attracted thousands of spectators to Minden on both days of the weekend. The race had originally been scheduled for January 17 and 18, but had to be postponed due to poor trail conditions.

Leigh Gilchrist of Brechin, Ontario, and his team charge for the finish line during the Saturday heat of the Minden Techni-Cal Challenge Sled Dog Derby. The Gilchrist team was one of nearly 70 to compete during the weekend.

SIRCH book is a guide for other communities

In a quiet room at the University of Toronto, on January 26, a Haliburton County dream became a reality. SIRCH Inc. held a book launch for the book *From Dream to Reality*, the story of how the Women's Emergency House in Haliburton was conceived and created. MPP Chris Hodgson and Diane Cunningham, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Minister responsible for Women's Issues, were on hand to participate in the event.

From Dream to Reality tells the story of SIRCH's realization of the need for an emergency shelter for women in abusive situations, and the community that helped make the idea a tangible reality. It is a step by step guide for any community to construct its own emergency house. The book was originally written in 1995, but has been updated by Lon Duncombe, due to a large number of requests for information from around the world. Inquiries have been made from as far away as New Zealand, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Holland and Japan, for help on similar projects. The hope is that with this publication, SIRCH can assist other communities in Ontario, Canada and the rest of the world, in the creation of self-sufficient emergency shelters for women.

The Executive Director of SIRCH, Gena Robertson, spoke of the grassroots community participation, hard work and dedication that built the Women's Emergency House. "From Dream to Reality outlines what we did, or didn't do and why, the obstacles, the decisions, the successes and the people involved," said Robertson. "We learned lots of lessons and we've passed those on to the reader."

Women's Emergency House was built in 1993 in response to the need for a refuge for women in Haliburton County. Prior to its construction, a woman who wanted to leave an abusive situation would have to leave the county in order to receive help. Now, after five years of operation, the Women's Emergency House has assisted 39 women and 48 children.

The facility has been accessed on almost 900 bednights. The women range in age from 17 to 64 and the children from two months to 16 years of age. The emergency house contains three bedrooms, with room for up to 12 women and children to stay for up to three weeks. It provides a safe environment and is also wheelchair accessible.

The house was built with the help of many volunteers and local businesses, who donated time, labour and materials. According to Gena Robertson, the house receives no annualized funding from the government. It survives with the help of fundraising and grants. Robertson stated that this venture, although ideal in small rural areas, such as Haliburton County, should not be considered an alternative for government funded facilities.

(more on page 3)

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